Raids under FERA and COFEPOSA

191. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids conducted to find out the extent of violation of the provisions of FERA and COFEPOSA during the last months in the various parts of the country; and

(b) what is the outcome of such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) conducted as many as 665 searches during the last two months i.e. December, 1985 and January, 1986 for violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

(b) As a result of the searches, besides incriminating documents, Indian currency of Rs. 43.77 lakhs and foreign currency worth Rs. 20.14 lakhs (approximately) were seized. 19 persons were detained under the COFEPOSA Act. 1974, for racketeering in foreign exchange.

Bank loan for constraction of houses

192. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are permitted to advance loans to builders for purposes of construction of buildings;

(b) whether banks advance loans to individuals for constructing houses; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Under the existing policy guidelines of Reserve Bank of India regarding housing finance, banks are not permitted to extend assistance to builders for working capital purposes. Banks are allowed to grant advances for construction of houses to individuals|groups of borrowers falling under the category of housing finance. Priority has been accorded for the extension of direct finance to individuals|groups of borrowers belonging to Scheduled Castes| Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and economically weaker sections of the community.

Powerloom Sector

193. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to ensure that powerloom sector does not encroach upon reserved category production of handloom items; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Textile Commissioner's notification reserving certain items for Handlooms was extended upto 31st March, 1986. Powers have been delegated to State Government authorities for implementation of the said reservation, A new Act entitled "The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985" has been enacted since the present Reservation Orders were challenged in various Courts of Law as result of which its implementation became very difficult.

Tripartile committee for newspaper industry

194. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a tripartite committee for the newspaper industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?